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News

ROMULUS: New year brings new programming, services, to library

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ROMULUS — The public library will continue to expand programs, services and even its book collection in the new year.

"It's a year of new beginnings as we continue to expand and enrich our adult and youth book collections and add new programming," said Patty Braden, library director. "The adult fiction, large print and audio book collections are growing by leaps and bounds, as are the juvenile and young adult collections.

"We've put together a great lineup of local authors for our 2013 Spring Authors Series. We are also offering some fun and educational programs for kids of all ages.

"Our free computer classes are more popular than ever, so more are on the way. Adult readers can snuggle up with a good book and receive prizes for reading by joining the adult winter reading program."

Registration for all programs is recommended. Space is limited. Call the library at 1-734-942-7589 to register or for more information on programs.

The following are some highlights of the programs in the months ahead:

- Preschool Story Time for children ages 3 1/2 to 5 is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays. The winter session continues through Feb. 12. The spring session is set for March 5 to April 9. Sessions feature stories, songs and crafts.
- Toddler Story Time for children ages 2 to 3 1/2 is set for 10:15 a.m. Thursdays. The winter session continues through Feb. 14. The spring session is scheduled for March 7 through April 11. The morning includes stories, rhymes, songs and play time. Registration is not required.
- The "Just Like Me?" Family Reading and Science Workshops explore culture, biology and the human experience. "Everybody Cooks" is scheduled for 3 p.m. Feb. 2. The topic explores how geology and human migration influenced food. "Can You Feel the Beat?" is set for 3 p.m. March 2. The session will explore what makes music the universal language. The workshops are open to children ages 6 to 11 who are accompanied by a parent or guardian. Registration is required.
- Dr. Seuss's Birthday Program is scheduled for 6 p.m. Feb. 26. Favorite Dr. Seuss stories will be shared: "The Cat in the Hat," "Green Eggs and Ham" and "Daisy-Head Mayzie". Participants will make a "Daisy-Head Mayzie" head band and a "Cat in the Hat" cup. Children will play a fishing game called "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish." There will be a "Pin the Hat on the Cat" game and everyone will create a "Cat in the Hat" snack.

Registration begins tomorrow; space is limited.

- The library's Earth Day celebration is scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday, April 22. Participants will decorate a pot and plant a flower, draw a picture on the mural "What Earth Day Means to Me," listen to stories, enjoy a dirt cake snack and play some games. Registration begins April 1.

- The Adult Winter Reading Program continues through March 31. Adults sign up with the program "Hot Reads for Cold Nights." For every book read, readers will be entered into a weekly drawing for prizes. Participants must be at least 18 years old. Register at the library and receive a free bookmark and reading log.

- The 2013 Spring Authors Series, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, takes place in February, March and April.

Author Kevin John will visit the library at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 25, for a book signing and discussion about his book "Fever: Little Willie John - A Fast Life, Mysterious Death and the Birth of Soul."

The book shares the story of the author's father, Detroit soul singer Little Willie John, who lived for a fleeting 30 years, but whose dynamic and daring sound left a mark on the history of music. His deep blues, rock 'n' roll and swinging ballads inspired a generation of musicians. The book was selected as a 2012 Michigan Notable Book.

Author Phette Ogburn will visit the library at 6:30 p.m. March 18, for a book signing and discussion about her book of short stories, "It Can Happen to You." Ogburn tells the story of Sabra, Nya and LaTrease as they cope with issues of loneliness, lust, sex, betrayal, deceit and love. Ogburn also will share excerpts from her new book Innocence."

Author Michael Hauser will present his book, "Detroit's Downtown Movie Palaces," during a book signing and discussion at 6:30 p.m. April 29. In its heyday, Grand Circus Park boasted a dozen palatial movie palaces containing a total of 26,000 seats. Of these theaters, five remain today, fully restored and operational for live entertainment. Participants will revisit these palaces through photos and memorabilia.

- Free computer classes are scheduled on Saturdays through March. Registration is required. There are often waiting lists. Those who are unable to attend are asked to call the library as soon as possible to open a spot for someone else.

The schedule will be as follows:

Excel Basics: 9 to 10 a.m. and Excel Advanced: 10 to 11 a.m. Feb. 9.

PowerPoint Basics: 9 to 10 a.m. and PowerPoint Advanced: 10 to 11 a.m. Feb. 23,

Publisher Basics: 9 to 10 a.m. and Publisher Advanced: 10 to 11 a.m. March 9,

Uploading Photos to Your Computer: 9 to 11 a.m. March 23. Bring your digital camera and cable.

- The Second Monday Book Club meets from 7 to 8 p.m. the second Monday of each month. Book discussions are free and open to everyone 18 and older. Registration is not required. Just read the book each month and join in when you can. Library staff can assist in locating a copy of the book.

The book schedule is as follows:

Feb. 11: "The Tiger's Wife," by Tea Obreht.

March 11: "The Book of Joe," by Jonathan Tropper.

April 8: "O Pioneers," by Willa Cather.

May 13: "The Light Between Oceans," by M.L. Stedman.

June 10: "What's Eating Gilbert Grape?" by Peter Hedges.

July 8: "The Orientalist," by Tom Reese.

Aug. 12: "Salvage the Bones," by Jessamyn West.

Sept. 9: "What Alice Forgot," by Liane Moriarty.

•Anyone who knits, crochets, tats, embroiders or sews and wants to learn more can participate in a newly formed group that meets at 6:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month, beginning Feb. 6.

Group members will learn skills from one other and can also use library books for patterns and learning. Registration is not required. Come with your projects. The group is open to those 18 and older.

•A free class on square-foot gardening will be presented at 1 p.m. April 6. Learn to build, plant and maintain a raised garden bed using 80 percent less space with less work, water, weeds and waste of traditional row gardens. Registration is required.

•A spring used-book sale sponsored by the Friends of the Library is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. April 15-17 and noon to 5 p.m. April 20. The fourth day of the sale is "bag day," when visitors receive a bag full of used books for \$3.

•The library is in the planning stages for a spring teen program. Check out the library website for teen events and other news at www.romulus.lib.mi.us.

The library is now open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and noon to 5 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays for patrons from Romulus and Huron Township. Sunday is the only day the facility is closed. These are the most hours the library has been open to the public in library history.

"I would like to offer my sincere thanks to everyone for supporting the library," Braden said. "We truly could not have done it without you."

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